



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

Southern Regional
Assembly

SECTION 25A REPORT

REPORT DATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY	PREPARED BY
26/01/2024	Tipperary County Council	Fergal O'Donnell (A/SEP)

The purpose of the table below is to assist the local authority in completing the Section 25A (1) report to the Regional Assembly. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A (2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to NOAC and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

It is intended that the Monitoring Report will be succinct, covering the 2-year period 2022-2024, and therefore we would ask that the response to the questions are as short as possible and for example we do not need the full detail of each policy or programme outlined.

The Regional Assembly is keen to capture examples of good practice initiatives and actions undertaken by the Local Authority which relate to the objectives of RSES and would welcome the inclusion of such examples where appropriate.

For further information, please contact Brigh Ryan at bryan@southernassembly.ie or Claire Breen at cbreen@southernassembly.ie

Please return the report to this office by **Friday, 26th January 2024**.

This can be submitted by email to: cbreen@southernassembly.ie

SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACH
RPOS 2 TO 30

Please complete the following table relating to the status of your County/City Development Plan

Name and Date Made	Date Came into Effect	Direction	Judicial Review	Variations
Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028. Made on 11th July 2022	22nd August 2022	None	None	None

Please outline briefly how the Core Strategy supports the guiding principles and Settlement Typology contained in the RSES

Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the Tipperary Development Plan 2022-2028.

Housing Supply Targets applied for the county in line with Section 28 Guidelines and provisions of RSES as they relate to the regional settlement strategy and regional growth and performance having consideration to RPOS 2 – 30.

The following settlement typologies have been applied in accordance with the RSES: Key Towns, District Towns, Local Towns, Service Centres, Local Service Centres and Settlement Nodes. The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out the following Settlement Hierarchy:

Table 2.3: Settlement Typologies

Hierarchy	Name	Area Type ^a
Key Town (Self-Sustaining Regional Driver)	Clonmel	Key Towns
Key Town	Nenagh and Thurles	
District Towns	Carrick on Suir, Roscrea, Tipperary Town, Cashel, Cahir, Templemore	Towns above 1,500 population
Local Towns	Ballina, Newport, Fethard	
Service Centres	30 Service Centres	
Local Service Centres	36 Local Service Centres	Villages with designated plan boundaries
Settlement Nodes	48 Settlement Nodes	
Open Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Areas under Urban Pressure ● Open Countryside 	Wider rural areas

Strategic Objective SO-3 of the Core Strategy: To support the implementation of the County Settlement Hierarchy, in regenerating our towns and villages, creating vibrant town centres, attracting new residents and delivering quality residential neighbourhoods.

Please provide details on progress with the preparation of any Local Area Plans or other area-based plans (e.g. Masterplans) in your Local Authority

Clonmel & Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 – this is currently at Material Amendments Stage and is due to be made in February 2024.

Nenagh & Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 - this is currently at Material Amendments Stage and is due to be made in February 2024.

Thurles & Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 - this is currently at Material Amendments Stage and is due to be made in February 2024.

Roscrea Local Area Plan 2023-2029 – this was made on the 11th September 2023 and came into effect from 23rd October 2023. The Roscrea Town Centre First Plan was developed in tandem with the LAP and is placed on a statutory footing by way of its inclusion within the LAP.

Masterplans are in place for areas within Clonmel (Ballingarrane), Nenagh (Martyr’s Road), Thurles (Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy) and Roscrea (Gantly Road) and are given statutory effect by the inclusion of objectives within the relevant LAPs. These masterplans are at various stages of implementation.

Local Area Plans for Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir, Templemore and Tipperary Town are due to commence in 2024. Tipperary Town was the pilot town for the development of Town teams, and Town Centre Health checks in association with the methodology developed by Heritage Ireland.

A Masterplan for Lisheen BioEconomy Campus is to be published in March / April 2024 to support the redevelopment of this area, an area included within the Tipperary Decarbonisation Zone (DZ).

**SUPPORTING GROWTH /
DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS**

RPO 11 Key Towns

Please outline progress made in developing Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles’s role as Key Towns as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 17 Clonmel, RPO 20 Nenagh and RPO 21 Thurles. Please identify progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the RSES

RPO 17 Clonmel

The Clonmel & Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 (LAP) is currently at Material Amendments Stage and is due to be adopted in February 2024. A Local Transport Plan has been prepared for Clonmel, which forms an appendix to the Draft LAP. The LAP recognises the importance of Clonmel as a self-sustaining regional driver of the economy and the adoption of the LAP will place the Plan and the LTP on a statutory footing. In addition, a ‘Town Centre First Clonmel: Action Plan’ was adopted by the elected members of the Clonmel MD in December 2022, with a number of the measures included within this Plan incorporated into the LAP.

The Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration project includes four intrinsically linked and integrated pillars, namely: Kickham Barracks Regeneration, Clonmel Regional Sports Hub, Clonmel – Flights of Discovery and Clonmel Public Realm Enhancement is ongoing. Kickham Barracks Regeneration Phase 1 and Clonmel Regional Sports Hub are completed.

The Council continues to work with TUS and the ETB to deliver a co-located third and further education campus facility on Kickham Barracks, Clonmel. The ETB are already fully located on the site. The Council shall facilitate TUS Clonmel to re-locate from their current location on Frank Drohan Road to the new co-located campus facility in Kickham Barracks (Objective 5E of the Draft Clonmel & Environs LAP 2024-2030).

The Council continues to support the delivery of the N24 project, identified as strategically important in the National Development Plan, which has now reached ‘Preferred Route Selection’ stage on both elements of the project.

The Council continues to work in partnership with Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail to seek the improvement and enhancement of rail services on the Limerick to Waterford and Limerick to Ballybrophy Railway lines and deliver their strategic programme of planning and investment. The Council was fully engaged in the development of the new town bus route in Clonmel.

RPO 20 Nenagh

The Nenagh & Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 is currently at Material Amendments Stage and is due to be adopted in February 2024. A Local Transport Plan has been prepared for Nenagh, which forms an appendix to the Draft LAP. The LAP recognises the importance of Nenagh as a significant employment location, a county town and the major synergies with the Limerick MASP area. The adoption of the LAP will place the Plan and the LTP on a statutory footing.

Uisce Éireann have made a commitment to the upgrading of the wastewater treatment plant for Nenagh to support new development in the town. A planning application is expected to be submitted for these upgrade works in the first half of 2024.

Detailed design is completed and advance work including fencing and site clearance work is expected to commence in Q1 2024 on the R498 (Nenagh to Thurles Road). It is anticipated that a Contractor will be appointed and works commencing in Q3 2024.

It is proposed to develop a transport hub at the rail station in Nenagh with inter-urban bus services and cycle storage facilities and to provide an improved rail service to meet the needs of the community, in consultation with the NTA and Irish Rail. Policy support is provided under the Draft LAP and LTP and active discussions on this project are on-going with the NTA.

A Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy is being developed for Nenagh, to be the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr's Road Regeneration Quarter. Funding has been approved and the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing. The procurement of this project is now progressing to detailed design stage with tender publications expected imminently.

The Council continues to work in partnership with Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail to seek the improvement and enhancement of rail services on the Limerick to Waterford and Limerick to Ballybrophy Railway lines and deliver their strategic programme of planning and investment.

RPO 21 Thurles

The Thurles & Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 is currently at Material Amendments Stage and is due to be adopted in February 2024. A Local Transport Plan has been prepared for Thurles, which forms an appendix to the Draft LAP. The LAP recognises the importance of Thurles as a town with significant employment potential, as well as regional and inter-regional connectivity. The adoption of the LAP will place the Plan and the LTP on a statutory footing.

As detailed below, significant progress has been advanced in the development of the Lisheen National BioEconomy Campus, with discussions ongoing with funding bodies, land owners, prospective developers and the development of a Masterplan for the site.

Thurles continues to be a hub of national sporting activity, hosting intercounty and Munster championship games and finals. Planning permission was recently granted for the development of a Regional Sports Campus at Technological University Shannon, Thurles. The Council will continue to support TUS through continued collaboration with the project stakeholders and to seek funding opportunities for its delivery through the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (or other means).

The Council supports the development of a multi-modal public transport hub at Thurles Train Station in conjunction with the NTA and Irish Rail. Policy support is provided under the Draft LAP and LTP.

The Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme seeks to deliver a vibrant Liberty Square at the heart of Thurles. The revitalised Liberty Square will become an engine for growth in and around Liberty Square and will enhance the attractiveness of Thurles as a place to live and a place for investment /

employment. Phase 1 works are fully completed. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of Phase 2 of this project is ongoing.

With respect to the Thurles Inner Relief Road, discussions are ongoing with the Department for Transport in order to secure funding to engage a consultant to complete detailed design. Land acquisition discussions are ongoing. This project is strongly supported in the forthcoming Thurles LAP.

REGENERATION & SUPPORT FOR COMPACT GROWTH

RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development
 RPO 35 Support for Compact Growth
 RPO 36 LDA
 RPO 37 Active Land Management
 RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative Priorities
 RPO 176 "10-minute" city and town concepts

Please provide details on the implementation of your Core Strategy to date, including the achievement of compact growth targets (include details of planning permissions, housing commencement and completion figures in the table below, where available)

Please outline briefly, examples of significant regeneration projects/Initiatives planned or recently delivered, or innovative examples of delivering quality high-density residential development, or any projects to develop lands planned in conjunction with the LDA.

Please identify details (including amounts) of any funding sources identified to deliver such projects

Please provide details on progress in the delivery of enabling infrastructure and identification of any capacity issues or challenges faced in progressing such projects, including details of programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann’s Investment Plan and prioritisation programme

Please identify any challenges faced in delivering objectives for development of compact growth, in particular the unlocking of key regeneration sites and/or development of brownfield land.

Details of planning permissions, housing commencements and completions

Housing requirement identified in Core Strategy	Units completed since beginning of Development Plan period	Units from extant planning permission – commenced	Units from extant planning permission – not yet commenced
6,049 ¹	8 ²	638 ³	3,052 ⁴

The Core Strategy projects a population of 175,886 in 2028, an increase of 8,342 persons from the population of 159,553 in 2016. In Census 2022, the midpoint between 2016 and 2028, the population of the County was 167,895, representing 51% of the projected growth outlined in the Core Strategy to 2028.

The Core Strategy sets out a target for 66% of the growth in the population of Tipperary to be within the largest 12 towns, with the remaining population growth in rural settlement and communities. Of the 8,342 additional persons in Tipperary from 2016 to 2022, 4,065 of these persons were in the largest 12 towns, which equates to 49% of the population growth. Given the expanding pipeline of planning permissions in urban areas (planning permissions and commencements for scheme housing development has notably increased since the adoption of the TCDP), it is expecting that the scale of urban growth will grow still further.

¹ To 2028

² This refers to the number of completed dwellings relating to planning permissions granted since 22/08/2022. A comparison of Geodirectory for residential property points at the end of Q3 2024 and the end of Q4 2023 indicates that there are 1,091 additional residential properties in County Tipperary in this period.

³ Number of units from extant planning permissions granted between 01/01/2018 to 22/08/2022 that have commenced. This number is exclusive of undetermined appeals

⁴ Number of units from extant planning permissions granted between from 01/01/2018 to 22/08/2022 that have not commenced. This number is exclusive of undetermined appeals

The 2022-2026 Housing Construction programme include a programme of works for 50 different construction projects, varying in scale from 1 to 67 units, including turnkey developments and AHB programmes. Notable recently completed developments at Stanwix Village in Thurles, Glenconnor in Clonmel, and Newport, Portroe, Bansa and Ardfinnan.

The Council have strong working relationships with statutory infrastructure providers such as Uisce Éireann and engage proactively in consultations such as the 'Uisce Eireann Draft Regional Water Resources Plan' and 'Uisce Eireann Stage 2 Investment Plan 2025 to 2029'. Nonetheless, the pace of delivery of waste water capital infrastructure projects has had implications on the delivery of new homes and services in some towns, including Ballina, Fethard and Kilsheelan. Other critical issues in relation to the development of key regeneration sites relate primarily to construction cost inflation, and securing adequate resources to project manage projects.

The following provides a list of specific projects being undertaken by the Council:

Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration - The project includes four intrinsically linked and integrated pillars including Clonmel Public Realm Enhancement. Total project costs approved are €15,163,247 and URDF grant awarded is €10,594,961. As outlined above, a number of projects for Clonmel have already been implemented.

Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter – This comprises a Plan to regenerate specific existing buildings and civic spaces of distinction and value within Nenagh (including The Gaol, The Castle and Banba Square). Funding was approved in 2020 under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing. Total project costs approved are €896,712 and RRDF grant amounts to €672,534. A funding application for capital funds for this project will be submitted through the RRDF in February 2024.

A Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy, Nenagh - The proposal is to develop a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy, to be the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr's Road Regeneration Quarter, a 10 ha. strategic site of brownfield lands and underutilised properties located in the heart of Nenagh Town Centre. The works to be supported also include Public Realm and Amenity Enhancement to Friar Street Civic Plaza, Martyr's Road Town Park, Martyr's Road streetscape improvements, including cycleways. Funding has been approved and the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing. Total project costs approved are €12,700,000 and URDF grant awarded amounts to €9,525,000.

Gantly Street, Roscrea - Development of the Gantly Street masterplan area will transform a central area of Roscrea, create opportunities to provide homes, business and amenity space for local residents to enjoy and lead to knock-on socio-economic benefits for the whole of the town. The regeneration and re-imaging of Gantly Street is critical to the overall delivery of the Gantly Street Age Friendly Neighbourhood masterplan area into the future. Funding was announced by Minister Heather Humphreys under Phase 2 on 10th November, 2022. Total project costs amount to €5,639,145. RRDF grant approved is €4,511,316.

Templemore Town Hall Enterprise and Cultural Centre with Civic Plaza - The project proposal is a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve and establish Templemore Town Hall as an economic, cultural and community hub of the town, the District and the Mid-West Region. The project was prepared by the Council in partnership with Garda Training College, Templemore College of Further Education, Templemore Community Development Association, the Local Enterprise Office and the Tipperary Energy Agency. Funding was approved in 2019 under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Total project costs approved are €4,014,746 and RRDF grant amounts to €3,011,060. This project is now on site is expected to be completed in June 2024.

Fethard Town Park – This completed project consisted of the development of a community sport and recreational campus, incorporating a community pavilion, playing pitches, walkways, parkland and open spaces. The project was developed through a partnership approach with Coolmore Ireland, Cashel and Emly Diocese and Healthy Ireland. The official opening was in June 2023.

Tipperary Town Regeneration - This is a significant regeneration project for Tipperary Town and includes: Upgrade of the Market Yard as a pedestrian priority area linking the Excel Heritage Centre to Market Yard and the Town Centre; Development of an 800m gravelled walkway parallel with the existing river channel and connecting to the existing path near Glenview. All elements of this project are completed.

Thurles Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme - this scheme seeks to deliver a vibrant Liberty Square at the heart of Thurles. Phase 1 works are fully completed. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of Phase 2 of this project is ongoing. Total project costs approved are €10,700,291 and URDF grant awarded amounts to €5,390,291.

Thurles Market Quarter - This is a collaboration between Tipperary County Council, Thurles Lion's Club and Mary Immaculate College Thurles. The project will provide a designated market space in the town centre. The project was awarded RRDF Funding in April, 2021. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing. Total project costs are €3,825,700 and RRDF grant amounts to €3,443,130. Works will commence in Q1 2024 with estimated completion in Q2 2025.

Cahir Town Centre Living-Working Quarter - The project will provide a dynamic town centre Square with a focus on pedestrian priority and civic space. Funding was approved in 2020 under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. This category 2 project is completed. Total project costs approved are €986,354 and RRDF grant amounts to €663,362. Contractor to be appointed at end of January and commencement of demolition and enabling works to begin in February 2024.

Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan - Improvements will consist of public realm improvements; the provision of a new Enterprise and Digital Hub; the creation of an arrival point at Sean Healy Park from the Suir Blueway, public realm upgrade of Castle Street and repurposing of Ormond Castle Park as a high-quality Amenity and Biodiversity Park. Funding was announced by Minister Heather Humphreys under Phase 1 on 10th. November, 2022. Total project costs amount to €17,989,387. RRDF grant approved is €14,391,509. Phase 1 works to be complete in Q2 2024. Completion of tender documentation in Q1 2024 for detailed design works. Finalise design phase in Q1/Q2 2024 for Phase 4.

SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES

RPO 26 Towns & Villages
RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework

Please outline progress made in strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages identified in the Development Plan, including details of housing units planned/developed through programmes such as the RRDF funding and 'Town Centre First'

Tipperary County Council has secured more funding than any other local authority in the country through the RRDF, with funding secured for various projects smaller towns and villages including Roscrea, Tipperary Town, Carrick-on-Suir, Templemore, Fethard, Kilsheelan (further detail of projects above).

The development of Enhancement and Mobility Plans for the towns of Ballina / Killaloe and Newport further identify critical infrastructure projects to support the regeneration and growth of town and villages in the county.

The Town Centre First Plan for Roscrea has been completed (September 2023), with the Plan already being utilised to develop funding bids through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Town and Village Renewal and RRDF. The Gantly Road Masterplan includes 5 phases, two of which have secured funding through the RRDF (new street and enabling infrastructure for the masterplan area) and a Town Centre First initiative run by the RIAI for innovative housing schemes.

The 'Town Centre First Clonmel: Action Plan' was adopted by the elected members of the Clonmel MD in December 2022, and the Town team has been formed with meetings ongoing. Enhancement Plans for Newport, Mullinahone and Killenaule are being prepared to align with TCF principles.

The Council is working with the newly formed Carrick on Suir Town Team to prepare a new Town Centre First Plan for Carrick on Suir, utilising the template for Roscrea that has been endorsed by the Department for Housing.

The Council has held a number of workshops and advisory sessions in regional towns in the county, advising of the grant schemes available to home owners and prospective purchasers, that are funded by the Department for Housing, and other government departments and administered by the Council.

RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES

RPO 27 Rural

RPO 28 Collaboration/Partnership

RPO 29 Rural Settlement Networks

RPO 43 Rural Economy & EU Good Practice

RPO 44 Common Agricultural Policy

RPO 45 Action Plan for Rural Development

RPO 46 Digital and Physical

Infrastructure in Rural Areas

RPO 47 Rural Partnership Models

RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres

of Excellence

RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas

RPO 50 Diversification

Please outline progress made in supporting vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development, such as initiatives to develop networks/shared resources between settlements.

SICAP 2024-2028

The contract from the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for the 2024-2028 period was officially signed on 18th December at the Horse & Jockey by the Chairpersons of the Implementing Partners. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) provides funding to tackle poverty and social inclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

LECP

Following adoption by the ESCP and the LCDC, the plan was adopted by Tipperary County Council on December 11th and submitted to the Minister's Office. The First Implementation Plan for the years 2024 and 2025 is near completion.

Leader Programme

The funding agreement for the LEADER 2023-2027 programme was signed after the December LCDC meeting. Funding will be available for projects in early 2024.

Community Enhancement Programme

180 projects were supported through small-scale operating and capital grants in 2023.

Clár Funding 2023

On 1st December 2023, the following 6 applications were announced as successful under Measure 1 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities of the 2023 Clár programme:

- Gortnahoe-Glengoole GAA Club and Gortnahoe NS
- Ballingarry GAA – Upgrade the car parking amenity
- Upperchurch Drombane GAA – Install a new car park
- Galtee Rovers St Pecauns GAA Club – Community upgrade works to Galtee Rovers GAA Clubhouse and Walking Track
- Lattin Cullen GAA – External universal access toilets with baby changing facility
- Killea GAA – Upgrade of Flood Lighting for Killea GAA pitch

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 capital fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

This funding will help communities, community groups and committees, allowing them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together. The fund also aims to support local strategic priorities through linkages with Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).

PLACEMAKING

RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework
RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for Place-making
RPO 70 Bidding capacity

Please provide a brief summary of progress on major projects and initiatives identified through the Development Plan to support Placemaking such as improvements to the public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks. Details of funding sources (including amounts) to deliver such projects should also be included.

Details of regenerations projects and the financial cost of these projects is provided in detail above under the 'Regeneration and Support for Compact Growth' question

Bidding Capacity and Governance

Tipperary County Council has put in place a robust governance and project management structure to ensure a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach in the development, planning, implementation, delivery, and sustainability of existing and new Project Ireland 2040 projects. This structure maximises the resources of the Council in bidding for funding for projects. The extensive partnership network built by the Council with local business, third level institutions and community groups also provides further bidding capacity.

RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY

RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience
RPO 64 Facilitate new business formation, growth and industrial re-organisation
RPO 72 Brexit
RPO 74 Economic Risk Management System
RPO 62 Locations for Employment Development

Please provide details of progress in supporting the RSES Economic Strategy and the role of the Region's Economic Drivers. Details on progress with the delivery of Strategic Locations for Employment Development should also be included

Ballingarrane

Tipperary County Council and the IDA have engaged RPS Group to prepare a planning application for a 100,000 sq ft Advanced Building Solution (ABS) in Precinct 3 in Ballingarrane Business and Technology Estate Park, Ballingarrane, Clonmel. The design will allow for all associated infrastructure including car parking, site services, landscaping and related works with additional lands adjoining the site to offer opportunities for expansion. The building will be designed to achieve LEED accreditation and NZEB compliance. The design is well in progress and it is expected planning will be lodged in Q2 of 2024. Further details are available on <https://pratum.ie/>

Stereame

In 2022, Mack Engineering, (specialists in design, fabrication and installation of steel structures) completed their new building and began operating from a 4-acre site in the business park. The company employs approximately 50 persons and continues to expand and develop. In 2023, Costa Coffee and McDonald's both opened stores in the estate (McDonald's utilises a refurbished unit that had been idle for 15 years), expanding footfall and movement in the area and supporting surrounding businesses and services.

Lisheen National Bio Economy Campus

The development of the Lisheen National Bio Economy Campus is supported in the RSES, TCDP and Thurles LAP. The Council is engaged with funding bodies, land owners, prospective developers in the

development of a Masterplan for the site. Development is already taking place on the site. Revive Environmental has recently been granted permission to operate from the site and are actively developing the location. The Council is seeking funding through a number of different funding streams including EU Just Transition Funding to leverage and activate the National Bio Economy Campus.

Please provide details of progress that has been made with respect to the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for your Local Authority

The LECP went out as a draft in September 2023. Following input from community consultation and a submission process, the report was brought to the Municipal District, the Community Libraries and Culture SPC and the Economic SPC for input. Following adoption by the ESCP and the LCDC, the plan was adopted by Tipperary County Council on December 11th and submitted to the Minister's Office. The First Implementation Plan for the years 2024 and 2025 is near completion.

TOURISM

RPO 53 Tourism
RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment

Please outline any recently completed or planned projects of significance to support tourism development, culture, heritage or the arts in your Local Authority

The Tipperary 'Marketing, Experience & Destination Development Plan', 2016 - 2021 sets out a development strategy for tourism in the County. This is supported by 'Tipperary Transforming – Tourism Product Development Plan 2020 – 2030' (Tipperary Tourism and Tipperary County Council), a 10-year vision statement for tourism development

A number of cross-county and collaborative tourism initiatives include:

- The Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan 2020 – 2024
- The Munster Vales Strategic Tourism Development Plan 2020 – 2025
- Green and Blue Way Development
- Cashel Destination Town Plan
- Equine Tourism

Recent projects undertaken in Tourism include:

- Tipperary Angling & Accessible Outdoor Recreation Activities Development & Promotion
- Littleton Labyrinth Branding Strategy
- Tipperary Tourism Training Needs Survey 2023
- Appointment of a new Tourism and Commercial Manager for Carrick-on-Suir in December 2023;
- Development of Equine Thoroughbred Country Experience brand;
- Lough Derg VEDP 2020- 2024 Midterm Review;
- Launch of Lough Derg Legendary Food Trail;
- An updated Adventure Lough Derg App;
- Funding sought for a feasibility study on motorcycle tourism in Munster Vales

In addition, other regeneration projects, funded through the URDF and RRDF include tourism elements are progressing to implementation:

- Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration – includes Flights of Discovery.
- Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter – a tourism and heritage led regeneration project for Nenagh around the Gaol, Courthouse and Castle
- Templemore Town Hall Enterprise and Cultural Centre with Civic Plaza - The project proposal is a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve and establish Templemore Town Hall as an economic, cultural and community hub of the town, and is now on-site.

CLIMATE ACTION AND DECARBONISATION:

Please provide a brief summary of relevant recent initiatives, planned or completed projects to address Climate Action, including progress with the preparation of your Local Authority's Climate Action Plan and Decarbonisation Zone

TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY & SOCIETY

RPO 56 Low Carbon Economy
RPO 57 National Policy Statement on Bio-economy
RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy
RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework
RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change
RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation.
RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector
RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector

The Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan as published in September 2023, and 29 submissions were received on the Plan. The Plan includes 100 actions to be undertaken by the Council and centred on three critical themes:

1. That the Council will lead on Climate action and meet emissions reduction targets
2. That the CAP facilitates the delivery of the Decarbonisation Zone
3. That the CAP supports communities and other sectors in meeting national climate action targets

The Elected Members will be requested to adopt the Draft LACAP at the February Plenary meeting, either with or without modifications. A defined Decarbonisation Zone is identified within the LACAP (the only inland rural DZ in Ireland). The DZ is centered around the National Bioeconomy Campus in Lisheen and encompasses a wide rural hinterland that incorporates parts of both the Thurles and Carrick on Suir Municipal Districts.

As outlined in other sections, three Local Transport Plans will shortly be adopted for the three key towns in the Tipperary, each one focused on modal shifts and with climate action as critical delivery objectives. The Active Travel Team in the Council demonstrates the Council's commitment to sustainable transport modal shifts. The Roads section of the Council will invest €7 million in National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project, which will see 11,600 lights upgraded to LED across Tipperary.

The Council is heavily invested in seeking and securing European funding and other funding for projects to help communities plan for climate change. In December 2023, TCC launched the Community Climate Action Fund of €700k. This funding is being provided to fund community climate action projects and initiatives for capacity building within local communities. The Council is seeking Just Transition funding for projects in the Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles MDs to aid these communities in achieving climate actions targets.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGY

RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy
RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan

Please provide details of renewable energy targets, projects or initiatives to support renewal energy

The TCDP was developed with Climate Action at its heart, with objectives and policies running throughout the Plan:



Figure 2.2: Core Ambitions for Tipperary

The TCDP includes targets to provide 600MW of operational wind energy and 150MW of operational solar energy by 2028. To date, the Council has supported a number of solar energy projects since the adoption of the TCDP but only 1 of these is operational over an area of 7.5ha, with a maximum capacity of 6.5MW. In total, there is almost 170MW of solar development with planning permission in Tipperary. The TCDP commits to reviewing the Council's Renewable Energy Strategy over the lifetime of the Plan.

A Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy, Nenagh - The proposal is to develop a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy, to be the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr's Road Regeneration Quarter, a 10 ha. strategic site of brownfield lands and underutilised properties located in the heart of Nenagh Town Centre. The works to be supported also include Public Realm and Amenity Enhancement to Friar Street Civic Plaza, Martyr's Road Town Park, Martyr's Road streetscape improvements, including cycleways. Funding has been approved and the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.

Annual Energy and Farm Diversification Show –An annual Energy and Farm Diversification Show is held in Gurteen Agricultural College, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council. The show hosts over 100 speakers and attracts a national audience and ministers annually.

Renewable Energy and Smart Energy Communities – The Council continues to support community renewable energy initiatives such as the Templederry Wind farm.

Lisheen National Bio Economy Campus

The Council is engaged with funding bodies, land owners, prospective developers in the development of a Masterplan for the site. Development is already taking place on the site. Revive Environmental has recently been granted permission to operate from the site and are actively developing the location. The Council is seeking funding through a number of different funding streams including EU Just Transition Funding to leverage and activate the National Bio Economy Campus. The Council has ermitted bioenergy developments in the National Bioeconomy Campus and through the development of a masterplan for the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen.

BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- RPO 110 Ecosystem Services
- RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- RPO 124 Green Infrastructure
- RPO 125 Green Infrastructure Corridors

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the development of Blue Green Infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity

In 2023, a number of Biodiversity projects within the county were completed:

- County Tipperary Wetlands Survey Phase 3
- An Assessment of the Distribution of the Alpine Newt in the Midlands and West of Ireland (Co-funded with Offaly and Galway CoCo)
- Survey on the distribution and of invasive algae *Nitellopsis obtusa* in Loughs Ree and Lough Derg
- Hydrological Assessment and restoration proposals for Lough Nahinch, Co. Tipperary
- Survey of birds at Schohoboy Bog and Sopwell Woods
- Biodiversity Awareness Programmes

In 2024, further projects are targeted for delivery and implementation:

- County Tipperary Wetlands Survey Phase 4
- Baseline Ecological Survey at Ashton’s Callows
- Development of eDNA profile for Alpine Newt (in collaboration with Offaly & Galway County Councils)
- Mayfly Survey (National Survey co-funded by 22 Local Authorities)
- Biodiversity Training and Awareness
- County Hedgerow Survey
- Ecological assessment of LA owned lands

All projects are funded under the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) with 15% match funding from Tipperary County Council.

Each of the projects which the Council has been successful in attracting funding for through the URDF and RRDF includes significant elements of Nature-Based Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions as well as biodiversity and ecological elements. The Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan, for example, includes the development of a high-quality Amenity and Biodiversity Park. Capital funding for this project has been approved and design teams have now been appointed.

RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support recreation and sporting facilities including blueways and greenways

Clonmel Regional Sports Hub – This project is substantially complete and consists of the development of an athletics track, BMX track, adventure playground, tiered seating/viewing areas/pedestrian walkways, perimeter walkway/running/cycling track, pavilion, lighting, boundary treatment.

Fethard Town Park – This completed project consists of the development of a community sport and recreational campus, incorporating a community pavilion, playing pitches, walkways, parkland and open spaces. The project was developed through a partnership approach with Coolmore Ireland, Cashel and Emly Diocese and Healthy Ireland. The official opening was in June, 2023.

Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan - Improvements will include the creation of an arrival point at Sean Healy Park from the Suir Blueway and repurposing of Ormond Castle Park as a high-quality Amenity and Biodiversity Park. Funding has been approved and the project is ongoing.

Thurles ‘sports village attraction’ - Thurles has been identified as an ideal location for a ‘sports village attraction’ whereby children, teenagers and families from all over Ireland can stay on campus and partake in a wide range of sporting activities under ‘Tipperary Transforming – Tourism Product Development Plan 2020 – 2030’ (Tipperary Tourism and Tipperary County Council).

The Council has a number of identified Blueway and Greenway projects including: Beara Breifne Way; Lough Derg Blueway; Suir Blueway Tipperary; Proposed link between the Suir Blueway (Carrick on Suir) and the Waterford Greenway; St Declan's Way. In 2024, the Council is seeking funding to further progress the development of improvement works along the Suir Blueway, design funding the development of the Lough Derg Greenway and funding for development of the Cahir Cashel greenway.

Newport Town Park – This park, covering an area of 9 acres, was opened in 2022 and cost €2.9m to deliver, funded through the Department of Housing, Limerick Hinterland Fund and TCC.

Littleton Labyrinth – This is a project to create a 23km trail around Ballynonty and Lough Dhoire Bhile. The project is a key aspect of Just Transition for the area, following the closure of the briquette factory in the area.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

RPO 110 Ecosystem Services
RPO 111 Water Resources
RPO 112 Water Quality
RPO 121 Effective Collaboration to Implement River Basin Management Plans and Water Framework Directive
RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
RPO 123 River Basin Management Plan and Spatial Planning
RPO 124 Green Infrastructure
RPO 126 Biodiversity
RPO 127 Invasive Species

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive including ecosystem services, SuDS and biodiversity

TCC, along with Kilkenny County Council, jointly manage the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), a national shared service working on behalf of 31 local authorities in Ireland. LAWPRO works to achieve good or high-quality water quality in our rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwater as required by the EU Water Framework Directive,

In 2023, the following measures were undertaken by the Council:

- 724 samples were taken as part of Water Framework Directive (WFD) sampling programme
- 59 Section 4 monitoring samples were taken
- 74 farm inspections were performed
- 10 source protection investigations were undertaken
- 21 Nutrient Management Plans have been submitted and assessed
- 40 septic tank inspections were performed under the National Inspection Plan
- 455 drinking water samples were taken as part of the Rural Water Programme, 40 of which were investigative, follow up samples
- 22 on site drinking water audits were performed (small private supplies)

A number of local authority staff in the Planning and Environment sections have successfully completed a Certificate in Environmental and Planning Legislation, in association with SETU, which includes training on the Water Framework Directive.

Through the application of the policies of the TCDP, the Council requires the inclusion of urban greening/landscaping as a fundamental element of design. These features must incorporate features and design solutions such as biodiversity friendly landscaping, nature-based solutions to SUDS in all development proposals.

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIES

RPO 133 Smart Cities
RPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region:

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the development of a Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns. In rural areas, please outline progress made in the development of Remote Working & Digital Hubs and other relevant initiatives for the optimisation of digital connectivity.

Clonmel

In 2023, Clonmel's Smart Skills for Farming Communities was named as the overall winner of the .ie Digital Town Awards 2023. This digital project helps farmers use new technologies to make their work easier, save time and money as well as improving the sustainability and profitability of their farm.

The Council supports the development of a digital smart town centre by working with technology infrastructure providers to deliver high-speed broadband connectivity and facilities throughout the town centre. The Council supports the development of a further Digital Hub in the town centre (Objectives 4D and 4E of Draft Clonmel & Environs LAP 2024-2030).

Nenagh

The SECOE project is progressing to detailed design stage. 6 Architect-led design teams will be invited to tender in the coming months. The procurement of consultancy services will bring the project to construction and beyond, into the implementation phase of the project. The SECOE will be a national centre of excellence, for the development, research and implementation of SMART and innovative building technologies.

In Q1 2024, the Council will seek capital funding through the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme for the development of the Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub, Nenagh. Part 8 planning for the project was approved in January 2024. The project will provide a modern digital and enterprise hub facility using best practice and appropriate modern architectural intervention to provide excellent office, collaboration and meeting spaces.

Thurles

As provided for under the Thurles & Environs Draft LAP 2024-2030, it is proposed to develop a Digital Hub within the town. The Council is currently in the process of identifying a suitable location.

Carrick on Suir

The Regeneration Plan for the town will include the provision of a new Enterprise and Digital Hub. Capital funding has been approved through the RRDF.

Cahir

The Town Centre Regeneration Strategy will include the restoration and redevelopment of the vacant Cahir Market House and former Council Offices into a Business Development Centre which will be run by Cahir Development Association and provide offices, a large training and conference room, co-working spaces and hot desks to satisfy the unmet demand in the town. Capital funding has been approved through the RRDF.

Rural Communities

The (NBP) Broadband Connection Point Initiative will unlock the potential in of rural communities in County Tipperary. The (NBP) BCP delivery Programme is completed in County Tipperary and the following includes 21 Broadband Connection Points (BCPS) known as the "Tipperary BCP Network" which provide free public WiFi services to members of the public.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY/ PORTS/AIRPORTS, FREIGHT & LOGISTICS

RPO 139 Low Carbon International Connectivity
RPO 145: Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region
RPO:149: Airport Strategy for the Southern Region
RPO 141: Regional Freight Strategy
RPO 143 Ports and Airports

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support development of the Region's International Connectivity, development of ports, airports, freight and logistics.

Tipperary County Council supports the development the N24, a critical piece of road infrastructure for the county, linking communities and districts towns to the cities, ports and airports of Ireland. The N24 Cahir to Limerick section preferred route selection was completed in Summer 2022. The preferred route selection for N24 Cahir to Waterford section was published for public viewing in January 2024.

Tipperary County Council made a detailed submission on the All Island Strategic Rail Review published in Summer 2023, indicating the Council's support for a number of the measures included within the Plan insofar as they impact on strategic transport in Tipperary. In particular, and as set out in the County Development Plan, the Council are keen to ensure that development of a dedicated Plan for Limerick Junction as s Strategic Freight Terminal and Transport Hub. It requested that the status of Limerick Junction in the as a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange is recognised in the All Island Strategic Rail Review.

The Council have strong working relationships with national transport authorities like the NTA, TII and Department of Transport and continue to engage and develop projects and programmes to secure strategic transport connectivity.

ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

RPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities
RPO 170 Rail
RPO 171 Bus

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support enhanced regional connectivity – by road, rail and public transport.

Nenagh Public Transport Hub - It is proposed to develop a transport hub at the rail station in Nenagh with inter-urban bus services and cycle storage facilities and to provide an improved rail service to meet the needs of the community, in consultation with the NTA and Irish Rail.

Thurles Public Transport Hub – The Council supports the development of a multi-modal public transport hub at Thurles Train Station in conjunction with the NTA and Irish Rail.

The N24 upgrade project (N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction and N24 Waterford to Cahir) - The Council supports the delivery of the N24 project, identified as strategically important in the National Development Plan and seeks to preserve the study area and option corridors for this project.

Limerick to Waterford and Limerick to Ballybrophy Railway lines – The Council continues to work in partnership with Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail to seek the improvement and enhancement of rail services on the Limerick to Waterford and Limerick to Ballybrophy Railway lines and deliver their strategic programme of planning and investment.

The Ballina/Killaloe By Pass, Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme is now on-site. The main contractor is s John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd. Works commenced in August 2022 with 3-year delivery programme for the works.

Strategic connectivity works in relation to Nenagh (R498 Realignment) and Thurles (Inner Relief Road) are referenced above.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY / LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS (AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVES)

RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport
RPO 152 Local Planning Objectives
RPO 154 Land Use Plans
RPO 157 Local Transport Plans (LTP)
RPO 163 Sustainable Mobility Targets
RPO 165 Higher Densities

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support sustainable mobility e.g. public transport, walking cycling, the 10-minute city/town concept, sustainable mobility targets. Please also provide details of any Local Transport Plans in respect of relevant settlements in your Local Authority.

Active Travel Projects

In 2023, the Council utilised funding secured through the Active Travel fund to complete the following projects:

- Active Travel Connectivity, Bowes Corner Thurles
- Rosegreen Active Travel Scheme
- Ballylooby Active Travel Scheme Schemes)
- Old Road Active Travel Scheme, Cashel
- Suir Footpath and Cycleway Scheme, Thurles
- Borrisokane/ Finnoe Road
- R445 Roscrea Footpath and Cycleway scheme
- R639 Cahir Road Active Travel Scheme, Cashel

Local Area Plans and Local Transport Plans

In developing Local Area Plans for the Key towns in Tipperary, Local Transport Plans (LTPs) for each of the towns have been developed in parallel. The LTPs have been developed in accordance with the ABTA methodology, including utilising transport data and objectives to inform land use zoning. The LTPs include within them an objective to assist in the delivery of 10-minute towns. The NTA have been active stakeholders throughout the process of developing the LTPs for these key towns and support the plans. The LTPs will have statutory footing as part of the Local Area Plans, once the Local Area Plans are made (targeted date for making of the LAPs is February 2024 as noted above).

Learning

Three members of staff from TCC (1 member in each section of Planning, Climate Action and Active Travel) completed the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator Programme, developed by the SRA and supported by the NTA in Q3 and Q4 of 2023.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

RPO 181 Equal Access
RPO 182 Ageing Population

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support and develop Inclusive Communities and Places and Improved Quality of Life

Roscrea is the 'Age Friendly Town' in Tipperary under the Age Friendly Ireland Programme and the Tipperary Age-Friendly Strategy. The Council supports actions, measures and funding for Roscrea as the county age friendly town.

The Gantly Street Age Friendly Neighbourhood in Roscrea is an ongoing project of 5 phases. The first 2 phases of the project have secured grant funding: Phase 1 relates to public realm works, re-alignment of the street and enabling works; and Phase 2 is a housing project for 16 Age-Friendly units which secured funding through the Department of Housing funded Town Centre First initiative. Architects JFOC have been appointed through a Design competition undertaken by the RIAI to provide detailed design for the scheme. The first two phases of the project are expected to act as a catalyst for private investment in age friendly homes in later phases, and provide comprehensive and cohesive redevelopment of this town centre regeneration site.

Stanwix Village is a project led by Thurles Lions Club (an approved AHB). The project is now home to 20 persons and recently won the Public Choice Award at the Irish Council for Social Housing Community Awards 2023. The development houses persons in accordance with the Age Friendly principles and is an exemplar of heritage regeneration in the county.

The Council seeks to ensure, where possible, that homes in new residential developments are universally designed to the Lifetime Homes standard set out in Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities (DEHLG, 2007).

LEARNING REGION

RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63,

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region

Section 6.5 (Education and Lifelong Learning) of the TCDP set out the third level education facilities in Tipperary which include the TUS campuses at Clonmel and Thurles; Mary Immaculate College (MIC, St Patricks College) at Thurles; the agricultural college at Gurteen, along with the Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB).

Funding has been secured for the Sustainable Energy Centre of Ireland (SECOE) in Nenagh and the project management plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing. The projects include research and educational space, and is supported by TUS as one of the project delivery partners.

Thurles is being promoted as a Third Level Town and policy support is provided under the Draft Thurles & Environs LAP 2024-2030 (Objective 5C and 5D). Mary Immaculate College have published a 20-year plan for growth which includes for a significant expansion of their Thurles campus.

The development of the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen, Thurles is subject of a Masterplan. Policy support is provided in the Draft Thurles & Environs LAP 2024-2030 (Objective 4B) and the TCDP 2022-2028 (Objective 10-D).

The Council continues to work with TUS and the ETB to deliver a co-located third and further education campus facility on Kickham Barracks, Clonmel. In particular, the Council shall facilitate TUS Clonmel to re-locate from their current location on Frank Drohan Road to the new co-located campus facility in Kickham Barracks (Objective 5E of the Draft Clonmel & Environs LAP 2024-2030).

**GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT
SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH
LANGUAGE NETWORKS**

**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support
Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks**

Tipperary does not have a Gaeltacht area.

Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Local Authority and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process, reduce barriers to implementation or ways to improve implementation.

It would be helpful in reporting and implementation if the following could be facilitated:

- A dashboard developed whereby the monitoring elements outlined in this report, and in the report of other local authorities (LAs), could be input. This would negate the need to repeatedly and manually input projects, targets, monitoring aspects etc. If made available to all local authorities in the region, it would allow LAs to view other projects in neighbouring counties that may have cross-border impacts, and collaborate if appropriate;
- The procurement of a Services Framework, to be available for use by all LAs in the region, for services such as Preliminary Business Case and Economic Business Case assessment in order to support applications for funding projects through the URDF / RRDF and other funding streams. This would assist in meeting RPO 227 - Investment and Funding;
- The development of a Wind Energy Strategy for the region;
- The development of standard operating procedures for collaboration within neighbouring counties when developing statutory Plans

PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM.

Name: Fergal O'Donnell

Position: Acting Senior Executive Planner

Email: fergal.odonnell@tipperarycoco.ie

Contact phone number: 052 616 6991